



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Sharon L. Morris, R.N., and Dean E. Morris
DATE: May 28, 1996
SERIAL NO.: 08/286,413 GROUP ART UNIT: 2111
FILED: August 5, 1994 EXAMINER: R. Gibson
FOR: Automatic Surgical Sponge Counter and Blood Loss
Determination System
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A94087US (51929/1)

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RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated February 28, 1996. A shortened statutory period was set to expire three months from the date of the action, making a response due by May 28, 1996.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) Apparatus for automatically counting used surgical sponges and determining the amount of blood contained in the surgical sponges, comprising:

(a) a container for containing used surgical sponges, the container having an opening through which used surgical sponges enter the container;

(b) detecting means, comprising a non-optical scanner means, for detecting a surgical sponge entering the container through the opening;

(c) first display means for displaying the number of sponges which have entered the container through the opening since a predetermined time;

(d) determining means for automatically determining the approximate dry weight of a sponge entering the container through the opening;

(e) weighing means for weighing the contents of the

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